United Nations A/HRC/WG.6/19/NOR/2

General Assembly

Distr.: General
13 February 2014

Original: English

Human Rights Council
Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review
Nineteenth session
28 April–9 May 2014

Compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21

Norway

The present report is a compilation of the information contained in the reports of treaty bodies and special procedures, including observations and comments by the State concerned, and of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), and in other relevant official United Nations documents. It is presented in a summarized manner due to word-limit constraints. For the full text, please refer to the document referenced. This report does not contain any opinions, views or suggestions on the part of OHCHR other than those contained in public reports and statements issued by the Office. It follows the general guidelines adopted by the Human Rights Council in its decision 17/119. Information included herein has been systematically referenced in endnotes. The report has been prepared taking into consideration the periodicity of the review, and developments during that period.

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Please recycle

I. Background and framework

A. Scope of international obligations[1]

International human rights treaties[2]

	Status during previous cycle	*Action after review*	*Not ratified/not accepted*
Ratification, accession or succession	ICERD (1970)	OP-CAT (2013)	ICRMW
	ICESCR (1972)	CRPD (2013)	CPED
	ICCPR (1972)		
	ICCPR-OP 2 (1991)		
	CEDAW (1981)		
	OP-CEDAW (2002)		
	CAT (1986)		
	CRC (1991)		
	OP-CRC-AC (2003)		
	OP-CRC-SC (2001)		
	CPED (signature only, 2007)		
Reservations, declarations and/or understandings	ICESCR (reservation, art. 8, para. 1 (d), 1972)	CRPD (declaration, arts. 12, 14 and 25, 2013)	
	ICCPR (reservation, arts. 10, paras. 2 (b) and 3, 14, paras. 5 and 7, and 20, para. 1, 1972)		
Complaint procedures, inquiry and urgent action[3]	ICERD, art. 14 (1976)		OP-ICESCR
	ICCPR, art. 41 (1972)		OP-CRC-IC
	ICCPR-OP 1 (1972)		ICRMW
	OP-CEDAW, art. 8 (2002)		OP-CRPD
	CAT, arts. 20, 21 and 22 (1986)		CPED

Other main relevant international instruments

	Status during previous cycle	*Action after review*	*Not ratified*
Ratification, accession or succession	Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide		
	Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court		
	Palermo Protocol[4]		
	Conventions on refugees and stateless persons[5]		

	Status during previous cycle	*Action after review*	*Not ratified*
Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and Additional Protocols thereto[6]			
ILO fundamental conventions[7]			
UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education			

1. In 2010 and 2011, the Committee on the Right of the Child (CRC) and the Human Rights Committee (HR Committee) respectively urged Norway to consider withdrawing its reservations to articles 10, paragraphs 2 (b) and 3, and 20, paragraph 1 of ICCPR.[8]

2. In 2011, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) encouraged Norway to consider ratifying ICRMW.[9] In 2012, the Committee against Torture (CAT) and CRC invited Norway to ratify OP-ICESCR, ICRMW, OP-CRPD and CPED,[10] while the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) encouraged Norway to consider ratifying CPED and ICRMW.[11]

3. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) stated that Norway was not a party to the 1989 Convention on Technical and Vocational Education.[12]

4. In 2013, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) encouraged Norway to consider ratifying the OP-ICESCR.[13]

B. Constitutional and legislative framework

5. CERD invited Norway to consider incorporating the Convention into the domestic legal order through the Human Rights Act of 1999.[14] CAT recommended that Norway consider incorporating the Convention into domestic law in order to allow it to be directly invoked in court.[15] CRC recommended that Norway continue its efforts to harmonize the law with the Convention.[16]

6. UNESCO stated that defamation was a criminal offence punishable by a fine and imprisonment.[17] It recommended that Norway decriminalize defamation in line with international standards.[18]

7. CERD recommended that the Anti-Discrimination Act be amended to ensure that all grounds of discrimination were subject to prohibition.[19]

C. Institutional and human rights infrastructure and policy measures

8. CEDAW expressed concern that the National Centre for Human Rights could no longer fulfil its mandate as NHRI.[20] CAT urged Norway to establish an NHRI with a mandate in accordance with the Paris Principles.[21] CESCR recommended that Norway put in place a new independent national human rights institution in compliance with the Paris Principles as a matter of priority.[22]

9. CEDAW encouraged Norway to further strengthen the Equality and Anti-Discrimination Ombud by providing it with adequate resources, and consider granting authority to the Ombud and the Tribunal to hear cases of sexual harassment.[23]

10. CESCR recommended that Norway improve the awareness and knowledge of the Covenant through human rights education and training programmes.[24]

11. CRC recommended that Norway introduce budget tracking from the perspective of children's rights with a view to monitoring budget allocations for children.[25]

Status of national human rights institutions[26]

National human rights institution	*Status during previous cycle*	*Status during present cycle*[27]
The Norwegian Centre for Human Rights	A (2006)	B (2012)

II. Cooperation with human rights mechanisms

A. Cooperation with treaty bodies[28]

1. Reporting status

Treaty body	*Concluding observations included in previous review*	*Latest report submitted since previous review*	*Latest concluding observations*	*Reporting status*
CERD	August 2006	2009	March 2011	Twenty-first and twenty-second reports pending consideration
CESCR	May 2005	2010	November 2013	Sixth report due in 2018
HR Committee	March 2006	2009	2011	Seventh report due in 2016
CEDAW	August 2007	2010	February 2012	Ninth report due in 2016
CAT	November 2007	2011	November 2012	Eighth report due in 2016
CRC	June 2005 (CRC; OP-CRC-SC) June 2007 (OP-CRC-AC)	2008	January 2010	Fifth and sixth reports due in 2016
CRPD	–	–	–	Initial report due in 2015

2. Responses to specific follow-up requests by treaty bodies

Concluding observations

Treaty body	*Due in*	*Subject matter*	*Submitted in*
CERD	2012	Discrimination against immigrants; asylum seekers; women, especially those belonging to certain ethnic minority backgrounds.[29]	2012[30]
HR Committee	2012	National Centre for Human Rights; abuses against psychiatric patients; monitoring of and reporting on mental health care; pretrial detention of juveniles.[31]	2012[32]
CEDAW	2014	Violence against women; gender equality in employment.[33]	–
CAT	2013	Solitary confinement; detention of foreign nationals; non-refoulement; missing minors and	2013.[35]

Concluding observations

Treaty body	*Due in*	*Subject matter*	*Submitted in*
		trafficking.[34]	

Views

Treaty body	*Number of views*	*Status*
CAT	1[36]	Follow-up dialogue ongoing[37]

12. With regard to communication No. 312/2007, CAT concluded that Norway's decision to return the complainant to his home country by rejecting his asylum application, despite substantial grounds for believing that he would be in danger of being subjected to torture, inhuman or degrading treatment by the authorities because of his journalistic activities, would constitute a breach of article 3 of the Convention.[38]

B. Cooperation with special procedures[39]

	Status during previous cycle	*Current status*
Standing invitation	Yes	Yes
Visits undertaken	Arbitrary detention (23 April–2 May 2007) Foreign debt (28–30 April 2009)	
Visits agreed to in principle	–	–
Visits requested	–	–
Responses to letters of allegations and urgent appeals	During the period under review, two communications were sent. The Government replied to both communications.	

C. Cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

13. Norway contributed financially to OHCHR in 2010,[40] 2011[41] and 2012.[42]

III. Implementation of international human rights obligations

A. Equality and non-discrimination

14. CAT noted, with concern, allegations of cases of ill-treatment, harassment, incitement to violence and hate speech towards minorities and other vulnerable groups, including persons belonging to the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community.[43]

15. HR Committee regretted the persistence of hate speech against the Sami people, and xenophobic, anti-Semitic and Islamophobic statements. It urged Norway to raise awareness and promote tolerance and diversity in society, and to train law enforcement officials in the detection and prosecution of hate speech.[44]

16. CEDAW called on Norway to embody the principle of equality of women and men in the Constitution or other appropriate legislation, to adopt a more gender-specific approach for its legislation, policies and programmes; and to raise awareness of the nature of indirect discrimination and the principle of equality for all women, including those from ethnic minority backgrounds and those with disabilities.[45]

17. UNESCO recommended that Norway intensify efforts to counter gender stereotypes and discriminative attitudes and to promote gender equality and equity.[46]

18. CEDAW urged Norway to use innovative measures to target people in the media with a view to strengthening understanding of gender equality; promote a positive and non-stereotypical portrayal of women through education; and monitor the measures taken in order to assess their impact and review them, if necessary, to achieve their objectives.[47]

19. CEDAW expressed concern that the current law on property distribution on divorce (Norwegian Marriage Act) did not adequately address gender-based economic disparities between spouses as a result of traditional work and family-life patterns.[48]

20. CERD expressed concern about the perceived excessive focus on the issues of female genital mutilation (FGM) and forced marriage which might be seen as stigmatizing women and girls belonging to certain minority groups.[49] CEDAW raised similar concerns regarding FGM.[50]

21. CESCR recommended that Norway intensify its efforts, including through the adoption of a new action plan, to prevent discrimination against ethnic groups and promote equality, as well as prevent and combat discrimination against persons from immigrant backgrounds.[51]

22. CERD expressed concern about discrimination against (im)migrants, persons from immigrant backgrounds, asylum seekers and refugees in accessing public services, housing, the labour market and health. It urged Norway to take measures to address that discrimination.[52]

23. CRC urged Norway to combat discrimination against children from minority groups, indigenous children and children with disabilities.[53]

B. Right to life, liberty and security of the person

24. CAT noted that the definition of torture in the Penal Code was not in full compliance with the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. While noting that Norway was drafting a new Penal Code, which would include discrimination based on political views and sexual orientation, CAT recommended that Norway consider amending its current definition of torture to include any form of discrimination as an element of the definition.[54]

25. CEDAW remained concerned that the number of victims of trafficking was constantly increasing.[55] CAT raised similar concerns.[56] CEDAW called on Norway to implement article 6 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, including through, inter alia, implementation of the existing legislation and the new Plan of Action against human trafficking.[57] CRC recommended focusing on child victims of sale and trafficking.[58]

26. CEDAW expressed concern at the high prevalence of violence against women, the high rate of acquittals, and the lenient sentences imposed on perpetrators.[59] It urged Norway to enact specific legislation to put in place comprehensive measures to prevent and address violence against women and girls; to adopt a legal definition of rape in the Penal Code; and

to provide adequate assistance and protection to victims.[60] CAT and HR Committee highlighted similar concerns.[61]

27. CEDAW urged Norway to conduct a study on the possible impact of over-sexualized representation of girls and women in the media on the increasing levels of gender-based violence against women.[62]

28. CRC encouraged Norway to strengthen preventive and protection measures to address FGM, forced marriage and intermarriage.[63]

29. CRC recommended that Norway implement the recommendations of the United Nations Study on Violence against Children (A/61/299).[64] It also urged Norway to ensure that adequate assistance was provided to children and their families, with due respect for other cultures, and that children had information about the helpline and where to find effective assistance.[65]

30. CRC recommended that Norway continue to implement appropriate policies and programmes for prevention, recovery and social integration of child victims of sexual exploitation and abuse; establish more Children's Houses; ensure that exploited and abused children received help as soon as possible; ensure that knowledge of sexual exploitation and abuse was integrated into training programmes for professionals working with and protecting children; and expedite the examination of cases within the 14-day statutory deadline.[66]

31. CAT urged Norway to ensure that prisoners with serious mental health problems received adequate mental health care, by increasing the capacity of in-patient psychiatric wards and providing full access to mental healthcare services within all prison facilities.[67]

C. Administration of justice, including impunity and the rule of law

32. HR Committee recommended that Norway review its free legal aid scheme to provide for legal assistance in any case where the interests of justice so required.[68] CERD was concerned that the legislation concerning free legal aid did not cover cases of ethnic discrimination, and noted that the Parliament was considering whether free legal aid should be granted when legal proceedings were recommended by the Anti-Discrimination Ombud or Anti-Discrimination Tribunal, as was the case with legal proceedings recommended by the Parliamentary Ombudsman. CERD recommended that recommendations for free legal aid made by the Anti-Discrimination Ombud and Anti-Discrimination Tribunal be placed on an equal footing as those made by the Parliamentary Ombudsman.[69]

33. CRC urged Norway to ensure that all children victims and/or witnesses of crimes were provided with the protection required by the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and to take fully into account the United Nations Guidelines on Justice in Matters Involving Child Victims and Witnesses of Crime.[70]

34. CAT urged Norway to improve and update its training programmes for law enforcement officers to sensitize them to appropriate arrest techniques.[71] It also urged Norway to closely monitor the effectiveness of the new procedures for the investigation of alleged violations of the Convention committed by law enforcement officials, in particular where discriminatory treatment based on ethnicity is alleged.[72]

35. CAT urged Norway to ensure that training for law enforcement personnel on the provisions of the Convention, including on the limitations on the use of force and on the principles of non-discrimination, proportionality and last resort to force, were regularly provided. It also recommended the development of a methodology to assess the effectiveness and impact of relevant training programmes.[73]

36. Several treaty bodies urged Norway to strictly limit the pretrial detention of juveniles and adopt alternative measures to pretrial detention;[74] ensure that juveniles were segregated from adult prisoners; and promote alternative forms of punishment.[75]

37. CAT recommended that Norway review its system of preventive detention, and consider abolishing the practice in respect of young offenders.[76]

D. Right to marriage and family life

38. HR Committee urged Norway to assess the impact of the new conditions the receipt of residence permits on the enjoyment of the right to family life, marriage and choice of spouse. Such a study should assess whether conditions should be amended to better respect the right to family life.[77]

39. CESCR recommended that Norway undertake periodic comprehensive reviews of children placed in institutions or foster homes and strengthen its efforts to provide parents with the necessary assistance and support to enable them to exercise their parental role and responsibilities in the upbringing and education of their children.[78]

40. CRC recommended, inter alia, that Norway assist parents to competently exercise their parental responsibilities and enhance the capacity of all professionals and practitioners involved in counselling, conflict resolution or family separation issues to support the continuation of family life or find the most acceptable custody solution and, in the case of divorce or separation, to assist children's contact with both parents, considering under all circumstances the best interests of the child.[79]

E. Freedom of expression, and right to participate in public and political life

41. CEDAW reiterated its concern at the low number of women professors in academia, of women judges at all levels of the judiciary, and the inadequate representation of women with minority backgrounds in academia and in the judiciary.[80]

42. CRC regretted that children have the right to be heard regarding health issues only after the age of 12. It noted with interest that a pilot project in 21 municipalities would allow children to vote in their local elections, from 16 years of age.[81] CRC recommended that Norway strengthen efforts to promote due respect for the views of the child at any age; promote children's participation and assist them to exercise this right; and ensure that the pilot project is supported through civic and human rights education, and that the impact of the project on the citizenship role of adolescents is evaluated.[82]

F. Right to work and to just and favourable conditions of work

43. HR Committee and CEDAW recommended that Norway strengthen its measures to ensure that women enjoy equal pay for work of equal value.[83]

44. CEDAW urged Norway to: prevent discrimination against women due to pregnancy and childbirth, and ensure that all women and men are guaranteed paid parental leave; implement policies targeting women to create more opportunities for them to extend their working hours; adopt more vigorous measures to accelerate the eradication of pay discrimination against women; re-evaluate the new pension reform under both the State and the employer-related pension system with a view to identifying any potential disparate impact on women and men, and rectify any disparities; improve the access and participation of women from minority backgrounds in the labour market; and ensure that the

implementation of a gender-equality policy, including pay equity guarantees and the use of special temporary measures, constitutes a legal requirement for granting public procurement contracts.[84]

45. CESCR recommended that Norway intensify its efforts to address the high long-term unemployment rate, including through a review of the impact of measures already taken to reduce this rate, as well as improving the effectiveness of its current vocational, retraining and reintegration programmes, and implementing new and more effective programmes.[85]

46. CESCR recommended that Norway take legislative and other measures to introduce a national minimum wage that would be periodically reviewed and set at a level sufficient to provide all workers and their families with a decent standard of living.[86]

G. Right to social security and to an adequate standard of living

47. CESCR recommended that Norway ensure that the monthly amount of the child allowance provided a sufficient support to families to meet child-related expenses.[87]

48. CRC recommended that Norway: provide the Child Welfare Services with resources to intensify its preventive efforts for families at risk of failing to provide adequate care and support to their children; follow up on children in alternative care, regularly examining the possibility of returning the child to his or her family and, if the child remains in alternative care until the age of majority, facilitate his or her transition to adulthood; and take into account the Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children (General Assembly resolution 64/142).[88]

49. CESCR recommended that Norway take measures to elaborate and implement a substantially more effective strategy to fight child poverty.[89]

50. CRC recommended that Norway protect children living in poverty against the detrimental consequences of that situation, particularly by specific early care and education, targeted programmes in school to compensate development and learning deficits, measures for better nutrition and health of children from disadvantaged groups and efforts to make municipal housing more child-friendly.[90]

51. CESCR recommended that Norway improve the availability and provision of municipal low-cost social housing units to disadvantaged and marginalized groups and individuals;[91] and take more effective steps to combat de facto discrimination, in particular against persons with an immigrant background, in relation to housing.[92]

H. Right to health

52. CRC recommended that Norway ensure that children have access to good health services, including in schools, throughout the country.[93]

53. CRC expressed concern that the level of substance abuse by children and young people remained high, and was seriously concerned at the number of deaths of young people from drug overdose.[94] CRC recommended that Norway strengthen its efforts to reduce drug abuse.[95]

54. CRC recommended that Norway continue to develop its mental health care system for children and young people and examine the phenomenon of over-prescription of psycho-stimulants to children, and take initiatives to provide children diagnosed with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, as well as their parents and teachers, with access to a wide range of psychological, educational and social measures and treatment.[96]

55. HR Committee recommended that Norway take concrete steps to put an end to the unjustified use of coercive force and restraint of psychiatric patients.[97] CAT urged Norway to provide clear regulations on the use of restraints and other coercive methods in psychiatric institutions; and establish a system for the collection and publication of uniform statistical information on such use, including the incidence of electroconvulsive treatment.[98]

56. CESCR recommended that Norway take steps to ensure that irregular migrants have access to all the necessary health care services.[99]

I. Right to education

57. CESCR expressed concern that the quality of education and student performance showed significant discrepancies between municipalities. It recommended that steps be taken to assist municipalities that show lower student performance and education quality in recruiting qualified school staff and in providing adequate support for the development of quality education.[100]

58. CEDAW urged Norway to raise awareness of the important role of the education system in overcoming differentiated professional choices and potentially unequal future prospects for women and men. It also urged Norway to implement measures to eliminate gender stereotypes and structural barriers that might deter girls' and boys' enrolment in non-traditional educational and occupational choices.[101]

59. CRC encouraged Norway to educate parents about the value of early education and provide places in good quality kindergartens for all children; and urgently advise municipalities to introduce the new language curricula in the schools so that children can better follow class instruction.[102]

60. UNESCO recommended that Norway integrate human rights education and training in school curricula.[103]

61. CRC recommended that Norway conduct a study on how the aims of the revised school subject, Religion, Philosophies of Life and Ethics, are achieved and what kind of support teachers need in order to adequately implement the objectives of this subject. It further recommended that Norway examine the educational objectives and practices of isolated religious communities with respect to their compatibility with the child's right to a holistic, human rights oriented education.[104]

62. CESCR expressed concern about the higher drop-out rate of immigrant students in particular in upper secondary education.[105] UNESCO recommended that Norway take additional measures to ensure the full enjoyment of the right to education by children with an immigrant background and to eliminate discrimination in access to education.[106]

63. CESCR expressed concern that children from minority communities were more likely to experience bullying in schools. It recommended that Norway systematically collect data on bullying in schools, disaggregated by ethnic group; adopt measures, legislative or otherwise, to combat bullying in schools; and assess the effectiveness of such measures in countering the phenomenon.[107]

64. CESCR expressed concern about the very high levels of absenteeism of Roma children of compulsory school age. It recommended that Norway take measures to ensure that all Roma children attend compulsory education, including through making it more accessible for those who travel for a part of the year.[108]

J. Cultural rights

65. The Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples stated that further efforts to facilitate and promote the use of the Sami language were needed to overcome the lingering effects of the history of harsh assimilation policies, which banned the use of the Sami language and *yoiking*, a traditional Sami form of song, for decades.[109]

66. CERD urged Norway to enable the Sami community to preserve its cultural identity, and to enact an education policy to address the mother-tongue teaching requirements.[110]

K. Minorities and indigenous peoples

67. CESCR recommended that Norway take steps to preserve and promote the traditional means of livelihood of the Sami people, such as reindeer grazing and fishing.[111]

68. CERD recommended that Norway take active measures to prevent discrimination against the Roma and Romani/Tater communities, particularly with regard to their access to public places, housing and employment, and allocate additional resources to find appropriate solutions for integrating children from Roma and Romani communities into the educational system.[112]

69. CERD recommended that Norway take appropriate measures to ensure that the activities of transnational corporations domiciled in the territory and/or under the jurisdiction of Norway do not have a negative impact on the enjoyment of rights of indigenous peoples and other ethnic groups in territories outside Norway.[113]

70. CEDAW urged Norway to ensure that all Sami women were provided with adequate social and health services, and to ensure that gender perspectives were mainstreamed in all policies and programmes regarding the Sami people.[114]

71. CRC recommended that Norway ensure that children from ethnic minority backgrounds and indigenous children have equal access to all children's rights, including access to welfare, health services and schools, and were protected against prejudice, violence and stigmatization.[115]

72. CERD noted the existence of provisions regarding Sami interests in Finnmark in the Mining Law of 19 June 2009, which entered into force on 1 January 2010. However, the cited Law does contain provisions for Sami interests in other places traditionally inhabited by the Sami in Norway that are outside Finnmark.[116]

73. The Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples noted that some Sami representatives had characterized the Finnmark Act of 2005 as not being fully protective of Sami self-determination and land and resource rights, and considered that the extent to which the law genuinely advanced Sami self-determination and resource rights would be determined by its implementation over time.[117] The Special Rapporteur felt that since the process for identifying rights to land under the Finnmark Act was currently under way, the adequacy of the established procedure was not yet known.[118] He noted that the Act did not include provisions related to marine resources.[119]

74. The Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples recommended that Norway finalize the process of clarifying and securing Sami land and resource rights both within and outside of Finnmark County. He further recommended that Norway give close consideration to the findings of the Coastal Fishing Committee and take effective measures to secure fishing rights for the Sami coastal population.[120]

L. Migrants, refugees and asylum seekers

75. CERD invited Norway to consider re-opening the Psycho-Social Centre for Traumatized Refugees.[121]

76. CAT recommended that Norway consider reducing the use and length of detention for asylum seekers who enter Norway undocumented, and refrain from returning foreign nationals to States in situations of internal armed conflict or generalized violence, on humanitarian grounds.[122]

77. CAT recommended that Norway guarantee all necessary legal safeguards to ensure the rights of persons facing expulsion or return; offer appropriate legal aid to foreigners in all expulsion cases, if necessary; and ensure that foreign nationals are informed of their rights in a language they understand.[123]

78. CEDAW urged Norway to take specific measures to address difficulties faced by lesbian and transgendered asylum seekers.[124]

79. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) stated that many refugees were compelled to remain for prolonged periods in reception centres due to insufficient placements in municipalities.[125] It recommended that Norway provide municipal placements in a timely manner.[126]

80. CRC recommended that Norway: identify children affected by armed conflicts among asylum seekers and ensure their rehabilitation and social reintegration; expedite the assignment of a guardian to assist asylum-seeking children in understanding the procedures, and clarify the role of the guardian through the initiated guardianship legislation; shorten the waiting period for determining the status of asylum seekers; ensure that age determination procedures are conducted in a scientific, safe, child- and gender-sensitive and fair manner; expand the responsibility of the Child Welfare Services to children aged 15, 16 and 17, and carefully follow up on them during their stay; make sure that children do not disappear and fall into the clutches of traffickers and exploiters; avoid sending children back to unsafe places from which they have fled and use their stay in Norway to equip them with the competencies and skills they will need when they return under more peaceful conditions; ensure the primary consideration of the best interests of the child and his or her affiliation to Norway whenever decisions about the child's future are under consideration.[127]

81. UNHCR expressed concern at the disappearance of children from reception centres.[128] It recommended the strengthening of efforts to prevent minors from going missing from reception centres through enhanced measures to quickly identify and ensure the protection of children against being trafficked or at risk of being trafficked.[129]

82. UNHCR stated that the lack of specialized facilities for unaccompanied children between the ages of 15 and 18 years had proven to be a challenge.[130] It recommended, inter alia, that Norway bring the conditions in reception centres for children in line with relevant international human rights standards, and provide the necessary mental and psychological health services by specially trained qualified staff.[131]

83. CAT expressed concern about the provision in the Immigration Regulations (Section 8-8) which granted unaccompanied asylum-seeking minors between the ages of 16 and 18 years a temporary permit that expires at the age of 18, as this may encourage minors to leave the asylum centres before their permit expires.[132]

84. CAT urged Norway to ensure that persons at Trandum Holding Centre were held in accordance with the law, and for the duration prescribed by law; that all detention conditions were in total conformity with international standards, including the United

Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the treatment of Prisoners, in particular with regard to the sanitary conditions and overcrowding. CERD made similar recommendations.[133]

85. UNHCR stated that with 2013 being an election year there was heated public debate around asylum and immigration issues with increasingly xenophobic tendencies.[134] It recommended, inter alia, that Norway continue to preserve asylum and integration space by strengthening Government efforts in the prevention and fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.[135]

86. UNHCR stated that the Norwegian authorities had been criticized for allowing immigration considerations to outweigh the best interests of the child with regard to those children who had been living in Norway for many years and had thus developed strong ties to Norway.[136] It recommended that further steps be taken to integrate the best interest of the child in all stages of the asylum and migration process, as well as in measures to ensure special protection for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children.[137]

87. UNHCR stated that there had been several cases where asylum seekers received sentences of imprisonment or fines for presenting false passports and identity documents, in violation of article 31 of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees. Despite guidelines from the Norwegian Prosecutor General that persons seeking protection should not be penalized for having false documents, there have been confession cases involving asylum seekers with false documents, in which the asylum seekers have pleaded guilty and received sentences of imprisonment or fines.[138]

88. UNHCR stated that Norway had an obligation to identify and treat stateless persons within its jurisdiction appropriately. It recommended establishing a stateless determination procedure.[139]

M. Right to development and environmental issues

89. In 2010, the independent expert on the effects of foreign debt and other related international financial obligations of States on the full enjoyment of all human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights commended Norway for its unprecedented and progressive decision to cancel the debt of five developing countries arising from its Ship Export Campaign and for explicitly acknowledging its co-responsibility, as creditor, for this debt. He stated that the decision was a departure from the creditor-solidarity principle of the Paris Club. He further commended Norway for its commitment to, and support for, multilateral efforts to promote responsible sovereign lending and borrowing and to develop criteria for assessing legitimacy of sovereign debt.[140]

Notes

[1] Unless indicated otherwise, the status of ratifications of instruments listed in the table may be found in the official website of the United Nations Treaty Collection database, Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, http://treaties.un.org/. Please also refer to the United Nations compilation on Norway from the previous cycle (A/HRC/WG.6/6/NOR/2).

[2] The following abbreviations have been used for this document:

ICERD	International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
ICESCR	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
OP-ICESCR	Optional Protocol to ICESCR
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
ICCPR-OP 1	Optional Protocol to ICCPR
ICCPR-OP 2	Second Optional Protocol to ICCPR, aiming at the abolition of the death

	penalty
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
OP-CEDAW	Optional Protocol to CEDAW
CAT	Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
OP-CAT	Optional Protocol to CAT
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
OP-CRC-AC	Optional Protocol to CRC on the involvement of children in armed conflict
OP-CRC-SC	Optional Protocol to CRC on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography
OP-CRC-IC	Optional Protocol to CRC on a communications procedure
ICRMW	International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
OP-CRPD	Optional Protocol to CRPD
CPED	International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance

[3] Individual complaints: ICCPR-OP 1, art 1; OP-CEDAW, art. 1; OP-CRPD, art. 1; OP-ICESCR, art. 1; OP-CRC-IC, art. 5; ICERD, art. 14; CAT, art. 22; ICRMW, art. 77; and CPED, art. 31. Inquiry procedure: OP-CEDAW, art. 8; CAT, art. 20; CPED, art. 33; OP-CRPD, art. 6; OP-ICESCR, art. 11; and OP-CRC-IC, art. 13. Inter-State complaints: ICCPR, art. 41; ICRMW, art. 76; CPED, art. 32; CAT, art. 21; OP-ICESCR, art. 10; and OP-CRC-IC, art. 12. Urgent action: CPED, art. 30.

[4] Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

[5] 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol; 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.

[6] Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field (First Convention); Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of Wounded, Sick and Shipwrecked Members of Armed Forces at Sea (Second Convention); Geneva Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War (Third Convention); Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War (Fourth Convention); Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts (Protocol I); Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts (Protocol II); Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Adoption of an Additional Distinctive Emblem (Protocol III). For the official status of ratifications, see Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland, at www.eda.admin.ch/eda/fr/home/topics/intla/intrea/chdep/warvic.html.

[7] International Labour Organization Convention No. 29 concerning Forced or Compulsory Labour; Convention No. 105 concerning the Abolition of Forced Labour; Convention No. 87 concerning Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise; Convention No. 98 concerning the Application of the Principles of the Right to Organise and to Bargain Collectively; Convention No. 100 concerning Equal Remuneration for Men and Women Workers for Work of Equal Value; Convention No. 111 concerning Discrimination in Respect of Employment and Occupation; Convention No. 138 concerning Minimum Age for Admission to Employment; Convention No. 182 concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour.

[8] CCPR/C/NOR/CO/6, paras. 13 and 14; CRC/C/NOR/CO/4, para. 7.

[9] CERD/C/NOR/CO/19-20, para. 22.

[10] CAT/C/NOR/CO/6-7, para. 25; CRC/C/NOR/CO/4, para. 62.

[11] CEDAW/C/NOR/CO/8, para. 42.

[12] UNESCO submission to the UPR on Norway, para. 13.

[13] E/C.12/NOR/CO/5, para. 27.

[14] CERD/C/NOR/CO/19-20, para. 7.

[15] CAT/C/NOR/CO/6-7, para. 6.
[16] CRC/C/NOR/CO/4, para. 9.
[17] UNESCO submission to the UPR on Norway, para. 19.
[18] Ibid., para. 31.
[19] CERD/C/NOR/CO/19-20, para. 8.
[20] CEDAW/C/NOR/CO/8, para. 15.
[21] CAT/C/NOR/CO/6-7, para. 8.
[22] E/C.12/NOR/CO/5, para. 5.
[23] CEDAW/C/NOR/CO/8, para. 14.
[24] E/C.12/NOR/CO/5, para. 4.
[25] CRC/C/NOR/CO/4, para. 16.
[26] According to article 5 of the rules of procedure of the International Coordination Committee (ICC) Sub-Committee on Accreditation, the different classifications for accreditation used by the Sub-Committee are: A: Voting Member (fully in compliance with each of the Paris Principles); B: Non-Voting Member (not fully in compliance with each of the Paris Principles or insufficient information provided to make a determination); C: No Status (not in compliance with the Paris Principles).
[27] For the list of national human rights institutions with accreditation status granted by the International Coordination Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (ICC), see A/HRC/23/28, annex.
[28] The following abbreviations have been used for this document:

CERD	Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
CESCR	Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
HR Committee	Human Rights Committee
CEDAW	Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women
CAT	Committee against Torture
CRC	Committee on the Rights of the Child
CMW	Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families
CRPD	Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
CED	Committee on Enforced Disappearances
SPT	Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture

[29] CERD/C/NOR/CO/19-20, para. 26.
[30] CERD/C/NOR/CO/19-20/Add.1.
[31] CCPR/C/NOR/CO/6, para. 17.
[32] CCPR/C/NOR/CO/6/Add. 1.
[33] CEDAW/C/NOR/CO/8, para. 43.
[34] CAT/C/NOR/CO/6-7, para. 28.
[35] CAT/C/NOR/CO/6-7/Add.1.
[36] CAT/C/47/D/312/2007; and A/67/44.
[37] CAT/C/47/D/312/2007, para. 9.
[38] Ibid., para. 8.
[39] For the titles of special procedures, see www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/SP/Pages/Themes.aspx and www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/SP/Pages/Countries.aspx.
[40] OHCHR Report 2010, p. 287.
[41] OHCHR Report 2011, p. 174.
[42] OHCHR Report 2012, p. 166.
[43] CAT/C/NOR/CO/6-7, para. 21.
[44] CCPR/C/NOR/CO/6, para. 14.
[45] CEDAW/C/NOR/CO/8, para. 10.
[46] UNESCO submission to the UPR on Norway, para. 25.
[47] CEDAW/C/NOR/CO/8, para. 22.
[48] Ibid., para. 37.
[49] CERD/C/NOR/CO/19-20, para. 15.
[50] CEDAW/C/NOR/CO/8, paras. 31 and 32(c).
[51] E/C.12/NOR/CO/5, para. 7.
[52] CERD/C/NOR/CO/19-20, para. 9.

[53] CRC/C/NOR/CO/4, para. 20.
[54] CAT/C/NOR/CO/6-7, para. 7.
[55] CEDAW/C/NOR/CO/8, para. 25.
[56] CAT/C/NOR/CO/6-7, para. 22.
[57] CEDAW/C/NOR/CO/8, para. 26.
[58] CRC/C/NOR/CO/4, para. 54(b).
[59] CEDAW/C/NOR/CO/8, para. 23.
[60] Ibid., para. 24.
[61] CAT/C/NOR/CO/6-7, para. 12; CCPR/C/NOR/CO/6, para. 9.
[62] CEDAW/C/NOR/CO/8, para. 22.
[63] CRC/C/NOR/CO/4, para. 45.
[64] Ibid., para. 31.
[65] Ibid., para. 37.
[66] Ibid., para. 56.
[67] CAT/C/NOR/CO/6-7, para. 13.
[68] CCPR/C/NOR/CO/6, para. 6.
[69] CERD/C/NOR/CO/19-20, para. 14.
[70] CRC/C/NOR/CO/4, para. 59.
[71] CAT/C/NOR/CO/6-7, para. 19.
[72] Ibid., para. 20.
[73] Ibid., para. 18.
[74] CCPR/C/NOR/CO/6, para. 12; CAT/C/NOR/CO/6-7, para. 10; CRC/C/NOR/CO/4, para. 58(c).
[75] CCPR/C/NOR/CO/6, para. 13; CAT/C/NOR/CO/6-7, para. 23; CRC/C/NOR/CO/4, para. 58.
[76] CAT/C/NOR/CO/6-7, para. 9.
[77] CCPR/C/NOR/CO/6, para. 15.
[78] E/C.12/NOR/CO/5, para. 11.
[79] CRC/C/NOR/CO/4, para. 33.
[80] CEDAW/C/NOR/CO/8, para. 17.
[81] CRC/C/NOR/CO/4, para. 24.
[82] Ibid., para. 25.
[83] CCPR/C/NOR/CO/6, para. 8; CEDAW/C/NOR/CO/8, para. 30(a).
[84] CEDAW/C/NOR/CO/8, para. 30(b)–(g).
[85] E/C.12/NOR/CO/5, para. 8.
[86] Ibid., para. 9.
[87] Ibid., para. 10.
[88] CRC/C/NOR/CO/4, para. 35.
[89] E/C.12/NOR/CO/5, para. 14.
[90] CRC/C/NOR/CO/4, para. 47.
[91] E/C.12/NOR/CO/5, para. 15.
[92] Ibid., para. 16.
[93] CRC/C/NOR/CO/4, para. 39.
[94] Ibid., para. 40.
[95] Ibid., para. 41.
[96] Ibid., para. 43.
[97] CCPR/C/NOR/CO/6, para. 10.
[98] CAT/C/NOR/CO/6-7, para. 14.
[99] E/C.12/NOR/CO/5, para. 21.
[100] Ibid., para. 22.
[101] CEDAW/C/NOR/CO/8, para. 28.
[102] CRC/C/NOR/CO/4, para. 49.
[103] UNESCO submission to the UPR on Norway, para. 27.
[104] CRC/C/NOR/CO/4, para. 27.
[105] E/C.12/NOR/CO/5, para. 23.
[106] Ibid., para. 23; UNESCO submission to the UPR on Norway, para. 26.
[107] E/C.12/NOR/CO/5, para. 23.
[108] Ibid., para. 24.

[109] A/HRC/18/35/Add.2, para. 64.
[110] CERD/C/NOR/CO/19-20, para. 18.
[111] E/C.12/NOR/CO/5, para. 26.
[112] CERD/C/NOR/CO/19-20, para. 20.
[113] Ibid., para. 17.
[114] CEDAW/C/NOR/CO/8, para. 32.
[115] CRC/C/NOR/CO/4, para. 61.
[116] CERD/C/NOR/CO/19-20, para. 19.
[117] A/HRC/18/35/Add.2, para. 44.
[118] Ibid., para. 49.
[119] Ibid., para. 54.
[120] Ibid., para. 81.
[121] CERD/C/NOR/CO/19-20, para. 9.
[122] CAT/C/NOR/CO/6-7, para. 15.
[123] Ibid., para. 16.
[124] CEDAW/C/NOR/CO/8, para. 36(d).
[125] UNHCR submission to the UPR on Norway, p. 3.
[126] Ibid., p. 4.
[127] CRC/C/NOR/CO/4, para. 52.
[128] UNHCR submission to the UPR on Norway, p. 3.
[129] Ibid., p. 4.
[130] Ibid., p. 3.
[131] Ibid., p. 4.
[132] CAT/C/NOR/CO/6-7, para. 22.
[133] Ibid., para. 19; CERD/C/NOR/CO/19-20, para. 13.
[134] UNHCR submission to the UPR on Norway, p. 5.
[135] Ibid., p. 5.
[136] Ibid., p. 6.
[137] Ibid., p. 7.
[138] Ibid., p. 7 and 8.
[139] Ibid., p. 9.
[140] A/HRC/14/21/Add.1, para. 79.